

April 12, 1951.

Dr. C. A. Stuart,  
Dept. Biology,  
Brown University,  
Providence 12, R.I.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

Under separate cover, I returned your original vials of BB<sup>34</sup> and W-1, and a Lac<sup>-</sup> culture isolated from BB<sup>34</sup> after selective enrichment. In my hands, BB<sup>34</sup> behaves as a typical "unstable" with low rate of variation to Lac<sup>-</sup>. On EMB, all the colonies are of the Lac<sup>-</sup> appearance, with papillae developing in occasional colonies after several days.

I would be very much interested to follow the characteristic reversal of pH you describe for W-1. In my hands, ~~some~~ a very small amount of acid and gas are eventually produced (not due to Lac<sup>-</sup> mutation), but this may be a matter of the precise medium used to demonstrate the fermentative reaction. I should not have troubled you about these details had you not specified a distinct interest. I hope you will not trouble yourself about them on my account, but I will be glad to hear any comment you might wish to make.

The antisera which you sent at my request have been received in good condition— my thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Associate Professor of Genetics.